

In the Claims

Please add the following new claims.

D'
Sub
C1

36. (New) A process for preparing a polyamide nanocomposite film having decreased haze and decreased oxygen permeability comprising the steps of:

- a. intercalating a layered clay material with an organic cation, wherein the layered clay material has less than about 2 wt% of quartz, based on the weight of the layered clay material;
- b. further intercalating the layered clay material with a melt of a polyamide oligomer or polymer intercalant;
- c. forming the further intercalated layered clay material into a film; and
- d. stretching the film.

37. (New) The process of Claim 36 wherein the polyamide oligomer or polymer intercalant comprises poly(*m*-xylene adipamide).

38. (New) The process of Claim 36 further comprising the step of shearing the intercalated clay material.

39. (New) The nanocomposite of Claim 31, wherein the polyamide oligomer or polymer intercalant comprises poly(*m*-xylylene adipamide) or a copolymer thereof, and the clay material comprises sodium montmorillonite or sodium bentonite.

40. (New) The nanocomposite of Claim 10, wherein the layered clay material has less than about 0.7% by weight quartz.

41. (New) The nanocomposite of Claim 40, wherein the layered clay material has less than about 0.5% by weight quartz.

42. (New) The process of Claim 22, wherein the layered clay material has less than about 0.7% by weight quartz.

43. (New) The process of Claim 42, wherein the layered clay material has less than about 0.5% by weight quartz.

44. (New) The process of Claim 22, wherein the polyamide oligomer or melt processible matrix polyamide comprises poly(*m*-xylylene adipamide), a copolymer thereof, or a mixture thereof.

Sub
D 961
cont

45. (New) The process of Claim 30, wherein the polyamide oligomer or melt processible matrix polyamide comprises poly(*m*-xylylene adipamide), a copolymer thereof, or a mixture thereof.

46. (New) The nanocomposite of Claim 1, wherein the intercalated clay material functions to decrease the gas permeability and haze of the nanocomposite.

47. (New) The process of Claim 22 that functions to decrease the gas permeability and haze of the nanocomposite.

48. (New) The process of Claim 30 that functions to decrease the gas permeability and haze of the nanocomposite.